

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 03092 071152Z

47

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02

L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 SY-02 /047 W

----- 050581

R 071035Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3665

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3092

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LA

SUBJECT: PHOUI SANANIKONE

REF: STATE 105230

1. JUST BEFORE REFTTEL WAS RECEIVED, MANORAK LUANGKHOT, PHOUI SANANIKONE'S SON-IN-LAW, CALLED ON ME BECAUSE HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT I HAD UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY WHAT PHOUI WAS ASKING. MANORAK SAID THAT CONTRARY TO GENERAL OPINION, PHOUI WAS NOT RICH; HE REALLY ONLY HAD \$20,000 IN BANGKOK AND THEREFORE HE NEEDED ASSURANCES WITH REGARD TO NOT ONLY POLITICAL ASYLUM BUT ALSO FINANCIAL SUPPORT. PHOUI WAS LEAVING FOR BANGKOK BUT STILL DID NOT BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD BE SAFE THERE.

2. I TOLD MANORAK THAT I HAD UNDERSTOOD PHOUI QUITE CLEARLY AND THAT I HAD POINTED OUT THE VERY REAL DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING THE USG, PARTICULARLY IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AT A TIME OF RECESSION. MANORAK CONFIRMED MY EARLIER SUSPICION THAT PHOUI WOULD PREFER TO GO TO FRANCE WHERE HE HAS FRIENDS. (LIKE OTHER LAO OF HIS GENERATION, PHOUI IS FRENCH EDUCATED, SPEAKS FRENCH VERY WELL BUT NO ENGLISH.)

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3. I TOLD MANORAK THAT I WOULD DISCOURAGE PHOUI FROM ANTICIPATING ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG, HOWEVER SYMPATHETIC WE MIGHT BE TO HIS PLIGHT, BUT RATHER ENCOURAGE HIM TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN BANGKOK AND WITH FRIENDS IN FRANCE. NEVERTHELESS, I SAID I HAD RAISED GENERAL QUESTION OF ASYLUM WITH WASHINGTON AND WE WOULD LET HIM KNOW IN BANGKOK IF WE RECEIVED ANY USEFUL ANSWERS. CHAPMAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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